



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 4319

SB0044204319SR0

Offered by:
SEN. RUSSO, 22nd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 442

File No. 512

Cal. No. 338

**"AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORITY OF BOARDS OF
SELECTMEN AND THE VALUE OF PROPERTY NECESSARY FOR
ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 7-421 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

5 (a) No person employed in the classified civil service may (1) use his
6 official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or
7 affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office; or (2)
8 directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise a
9 state or local officer or employee to pay, lend or contribute anything of
10 value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for
11 political purposes.

12 (b) A person employed in said classified service retains the right to
13 vote as he chooses and to express his opinions on political subjects and

14 candidates and shall be free to participate actively in political
15 management and campaigns. Such activity may include, but shall not
16 be limited to, membership and holding of office in a political party,
17 organization or club, campaigning for a candidate in a partisan
18 election by making speeches, writing on behalf of the candidate or
19 soliciting votes in support of or in opposition to a candidate and
20 making contributions of time and money to political parties,
21 committees or other agencies engaged in political action, except that no
22 classified employee shall engage in such activity while on duty or
23 within any period of time during which such employee is expected to
24 perform services for which he receives compensation from the
25 municipality, and no such employee shall utilize municipal funds,
26 supplies, vehicles or facilities to secure support for or oppose any
27 candidate, party, or issue in a political partisan election.
28 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, any municipal
29 employee may be a candidate for a federal, state or municipal elective
30 office in a political partisan election and no municipality or any officer
31 or employer thereof shall take or threaten to take any personnel action
32 against any such employee due to such candidacy. No person seeking
33 or holding state or municipal office in accordance with the provisions
34 of this subsection shall engage in political activity or in the
35 performance of the duties of such office while on municipal duty or
36 within any period of time during which such person is expected to
37 perform services for which such person receives compensation from
38 the municipality.

39 (c) Any municipal employee who leaves his municipal employment
40 to accept a full-time elective municipal office shall be granted a
41 personal leave of absence without pay from his municipal employment
42 for not more than two consecutive terms of such office or for a period
43 of four years, whichever is shorter. Upon reapplication for his original
44 position at the expiration of such term or terms of office, such person
45 shall be reinstated in his most recent municipal position or a similar
46 position with equivalent pay or to a vacancy in any other position such
47 person is qualified to fill. If no such positions are available, such

48 person's name shall be placed on all reemployment lists for classes for
49 which he is eligible. Such person shall give notice in writing to his
50 municipal employer that he is a candidate for a full-time elective
51 municipal office within thirty days after nomination for that office.

52 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
53 upon the request of any municipal employee to whom a personal leave
54 of absence has been granted pursuant to said subsection, his municipal
55 employer may, in its sole discretion, determine whether to extend such
56 leave of absence beyond the period permitted in said subsection and, if
57 extended, what terms and conditions shall pertain to such extension.
58 As part of any such extension, rights of reinstatement with equivalent
59 pay or benefits may be granted to such employee.

60 (e) Any municipal employee shall have the right to serve on any
61 governmental body of the town in which such employee resides except
62 any body which has responsibility for direct supervision of such
63 employee. Any such employee may serve on the legislative body of the
64 town only if such employee is permitted to serve pursuant to the
65 provisions of the municipal charter or home rule ordinance.
66 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, (1) no such
67 employee shall serve on any of the following unless such employee is
68 permitted to serve pursuant to the provisions of a municipal charter or
69 home rule ordinance or serves because of membership on the
70 legislative body of the municipality: (A) Any board of finance created
71 pursuant to chapter 106 or any special act or municipal charter; (B) any
72 body exercising zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any special
73 act or municipal charter; (C) any body exercising land use powers
74 pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act or municipal charter; (D)
75 any body exercising planning powers pursuant to chapter 126 or any
76 special act or municipal charter; or (E) any body regulating inland
77 wetlands and watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any special act
78 or municipal charter; and (2) any municipality may, by ordinance
79 adopted by its legislative body, authorize such employees to serve on
80 (A) any body exercising zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any
81 special act or municipal charter; (B) any body exercising land use

82 powers pursuant to chapter 125a or any special act or municipal
83 charter; (C) any body exercising planning powers pursuant to chapter
84 126 or any special act or municipal charter; or (D) any body regulating
85 inland wetlands and watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any
86 special act or municipal charter."